A PROCLAMATION

Appointing ſome Forraigne ſpecies of Gold and Silver to be Current.

CHARLES by the Grace of GOD, King of Great *Britain*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, To Our *Lyon* King at Arms, and his Brethren Heraulds, Macers, Purſevants, and Meſſengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly, and ſeverally, ſpecially conſtitute, Greeting; Foraſmuch as the Lords of Our Privy Council, having taken to their Conſideration a Petition preſented by the *Provoſt* of *Edinburgh*, in Name, and by Warrand of the Royall Burrowes of this Kingdom, Repreſenting, as one of the great cauſes of the Decay of Commerce amongſt all Qualities of people of this Kingdom, and the deadneſs of the Forraign and Inland Trade thereof, to be the great ſcarcity of the ſtock of Coyn, and of all manner of ſpecies of Money in this Kingdom, that does much incommodate all manner of Dealers, who are neceſſitate to deal upon Credit, wanting the ſupplies of ſpecies of money to maintain the ſame: which Scarcity having been occaſioned by the ſmall Quantities of Silver that uſed to be coyned formerly in Our Mint, before Our late happy Reſtauration, and the frequent Exportation even of the ſaids ſmall Quantities into Forraign parts; And having remitted the Conſideration of the foreſaid Petition to a Commitee of their number, for preparing the ſaid matter, impowering them to confer with the Officers of our Mint, and theſe of the Burrowes who were intruſted with the ſaid Petition, and to take exact tryal of the fineneſs of Forraign Coin both of Gold and ſilver; who having accordingly conferred with theſe of the ſaids Burrowes, and Officers of Our Mint, and having ſeen exact Tryal taken of the Intrinſick Fineneſſe and Value of ſeveral ſorts of forraign Coyn, by the ſubtile eſſay taken in their preſence, did make report, that the *Spaniſh* and *Dutch* Duccatoon, the *Spaniſh* Milrynd and *French* Crown, are much finer than other forraign Coyn now preſently currant in this Kingdom. WE, Therefore, being unwilling to reſtrain the forraign coynes preſently currant, while our proper coyn of this Kingdom is ſo ſmall, and ſo much exported, becauſe of its fineneſs; And finding it the better way to keep out courſe forraign coyn, by allowing the ſaid finer forraign Coyn to be currant: And conſidering, that the foreſaids ſpecies of money are the Coyn of theſe places with which this Kingdom hath moſt conſiderable Trade, and will be a great mean to inable Merchants to return money for the export of this Kingdom: Whereas if the Coyn of theſe places be not currant here, their Ships muſt return light, or loaden with forraign Commodities of leſſe uſe for this Kingdom, to ballance their whole expert: Have thought fit, with advice of Our *Privy* Council, to declare and ordain, and by the Tenour hereof do declare and ordain, That the particular ſpecies of Forraign Coyn, above and after-mentioned, ſhal have courſe within this Kingdom at the rates following, *viz.* The *Spaniſh* and *Dutch* Duccatoon to paſſe currant amongſt all Our ſubjects, for three pounds ten ſhillings *ſcots*: The *Spaniſh* Milrynd, for two pounds ſeventeen ſhillings *ſcots*: And the *French* Crown for two pounds ſixteen ſhillings. And alſo We conſidering, that there hath been an Surceaſe, and long time ſince the coyning of any Gold in this Kingdom, and that the ſpecies of all Old Gold is tranſported, and little Forraign Gold imported; And for the further incouragement of the Merchants in this Kingdom, concerned in the *Spaniſh* and *Dutch* Trades, to make the Returns of their yearly Export and Effects in ſuch ſpecies of Gold Coynes as theſe Countreys do afford; Do hereby alſo, with Advice foreſaid, Ordain, and Declare, the Quadruple *Spaniſh* Piſtol, or piece of eight of Gold, to have courſe amongſt our Subjects of this Kingdom, at the rate of fourty two pounds *ſcots* the piece, the ſame being of uſual weight, of twenty one Deniers: And alſo the ſmaller ſpecies of the ſaid Gold *Piſtol* down-ward, to paſs at the ſaids Rates proportionally: As likewiſe, the *Hungary*, *Dutch*, and *Fleemiſh* Duccat of Gold weighing two Deniers, fifteen Grains, to paſſe, and have courſe for five pounds twelve ſhillings *ſcots*, The ſame being of the ſaid weight. And to the effect all Our Leiges may have notice hereof, Our Will is, and We charge you ſtrictly, and command, that incontinent theſe Our Letters ſeen, ye paſs to the Mercat-Croſs of *Edinburgh*, and other places needful, and thereat, in Our Name and Authority, by open *Proclamation*, make *Publication* of the *Premiſſes*. Given under Our Signet, at *Edinburgh*, the twenty ſeventh day of *February*, and of Our Reign the twenty ninth year, 1677.

Per Actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii.

Al. Gibſon. Cl. *Sti. Concilii.*

GOD Save the King.

Edinburgh, Printed by the *Heir* of *Andrew Anderſon*, Printer to his moſt Sacred Majeſty, *Anno Dom.* 1677.